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SUBJ: FATA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AS OF MAY 23, 2008

REF: ISLAMABAD 1786

¶1. (U) Following is a summary of U.S. Mission Islamabad's activities in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) along its northwest border with Afghanistan as of May 23, 2008.

General activities  
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¶2. (SBU) USAID has contracted a feasibility study for construction of four roads in the FATA. The study is expected to be completed in September 2008. There are five proposals for 1210 funding in development, including training facility proposals for the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) police and the Frontier Constabulary (FC). A training course for levy managers is underway and a five-week course training course for levies will begin in June at the National Police Academy.

Peshawar Update  
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¶3. (SBU) The Principal Officer's recent visit to Dera Ismail Khan indicated that the town could serve as a branching out point for outreach into South Waziristan. As a result of her trip, negotiations to establish an American Corner at Gomal University have begun. The FATA Transition Initiative (FTI) will begin work in the Frontier Regions of Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, Bannu, and Lakki Marwat to build the confidence and credibility needed to implement projects in North Waziristan and ultimately, South Waziristan. Additionally, since Dera Ismail Khan is accessible by alternate routes through the Punjab, it is a more convenient site for USAID partners CHF and DAI to set up their first office for outreach into the southern tribal areas.

¶4. (SBU) FTI teams have installed 12 10-KVA generators and three 50-KVA generators at universities and student hostels to assist students after a May 11 bombing which severely reduced electricity to the Peshawar area and affected students' ability to study for exams. Two more 10-KVA generators are awaiting installation. FTI examined the possibility of providing assistance to the Engineering College for one month, although its students are not on the same examination schedule as other universities in the area. After students protesting the lack of electricity destroyed school property, however, the Engineering College closed early for summer vacations.

¶5. (SBU) FTI is conducting a media accessibility and credibility survey in Mohmand Agency, Khyber Agency, South Waziristan, Peshawar Frontier Region (FR), Kohat FR, and Dera Ismail Khan FR.

¶6. (SBU) After tribal elders allowed access in exchange for water

projects, FTI is sponsoring an intertribal soccer competition in the Bara area to bring the various tribes together. GOP officials will serve as Chief Guests and present "Player of the Day" awards.

17. (SBU) Work on a school renovation in Kharkay, Orakzai, continues slowly due to logistical challenges (rain) and security problems. Many of the young men and potential laborers of this community have left for work in Gulf States, leaving the community economically dormant. A local donkey owner, whose transportation business has been limited until now, has been hired to transport materials from the main road to the village school. The community had specifically requested FTI to hire this man and his donkey because the economic downturn has left him with almost no source of income. This is an example of how FTI provides preferential business to local business people in order to ensure that they receive economic benefits from projects in their communities.

#### Security Situation - - - - -

18. (SBU) The security situation continues to deteriorate in previously designated "go" areas. In Mohmand Agency, the overall security situation is very tense, and Taliban are seen moving about freely in Mian Mandi and Ekka Ghund market areas. (Note: These areas are close to the settled areas. End note.) On May 21, 2008, the "extremist" Taliban (a term utilized by our local staff as compared to "local Taliban") were seen at Saipan area. They are now slowly reaching the Shabqadar area (on the border with the settled areas). Taliban have stopped the girls at Ghiljo tehsil in Upper Orakzai taking their Intermediate examinations. The Political Administration brought these 60 girls to Kohat to take these exams,

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but they missed the first two. Khyber Agency is also rife with security threats which frequently stop staff from traveling into the Agency, but project activities continue.

19. (SBU) A bomb blast in FR Kohat killed two Frontier Corp soldiers on May 17, creating a high security alert and a sense of panic in the FR. Despite security problems, FTI staff still visited the village of Jawaki for a Community Consensus Jirga. Staff have also agreed to meet with the Maliks of Zarghoon Khel to discuss the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Dara Adam Khel College, which was partially destroyed by a recent bomb attack.

#### Khyber Idol Singing Competition - - - - -

110. (SBU) The final round of the FTI-sponsored "Khyber Idol" singing competition was held on May 17 at a government high school in Jamrud. The purpose was to provide a public relations opportunity for the Government of Pakistan, get citizens involved in Government initiatives, and demonstrate a change in the political environment since the MMA government (which restricted singing) was voted out. The songs were focused on patriotic themes. Radio Khyber reported that 3,126 people total voted by text or phone call during the semi-final rounds. Approximately 400 people from Khyber Agency attended the final round to watch live performances of all nine finalists. The Agency Education Officer was the Chief Guest at the event and distributed trophies and certificates from the GOP to the nine finalists. Former government councilors, the President of the FATA Teachers Association, and local elders were also present on the occasion. Audience members were enthusiastic, and many commented that such events should be held frequently to draw youths to cultural activities. On May 18, recordings of the nine finalists' performances were broadcast on Radio Khyber, and 1,428 people voted during this final round. The winner received 508 votes and will participate in the production of a music CD.

PATTERSON